



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Fort Worth District

News Release

Release No. CESWF-PA-01-028 Contact: Ron Ruffennach

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New life jackets to be given away to children under 13

Parents are invited to bring their kids to an area lake on Saturday, June 2, and have them fitted with new life jackets free of charge in exchange for their old ones.

The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Tarrant County Safe Kids Coalition and Cook Children's Medical Center, is sponsoring the fourth annual life jacket exchange at three area lakes. Parents are encouraged to bring in their child's "floaties", raft, or other non-Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) or an improperly sized or worn out PFD and exchange it for a new infant, child or youth-sized PFD. The child must be present to be properly fitted.

The life jacket giveaway is part of the Life Jacket Exchange Program which started in 1998 as a way to educate the public on water safety and correct usage of PFDs.

Life jackets will be given away at three lakes in the metroplex including Joe Pool, Benbrook and Lake Worth, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on June 2, which coincides with the only day of free fishing in the state.

"We see so many children at our lakes who either don't wear life jackets or wear life jackets and other personal flotation devices that are worn out, sized wrong or totally unacceptable as life-saving equipment," said Col. Gordon M. Wells, Fort Worth District Engineer. "In the event of an emergency, like if a child falls out of a boat, an improperly fitted life jacket can slip right over the child's head."

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The life jacket exchange will take place on a first-come first-served basis while supplies last at Joe Pool Lake's Lynn Creek Marina, 5700 Lake Ridge Parkway, in Grand Prairie; at the Benbrook Lake YMCA Community Center, 1899 Winscott Road, in Benbrook; and at the Lake Worth Marina, 4025 Marina Drive.

Editor's Note:

Additional Activities at Joe Pool Lake

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| 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Fishing tournament at the marina (\$1,000 in cash prizes) |
| 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Emergency vehicles – fire truck, police cars, police patrol boat, personal watercraft |
| | Water safety educational booth |
| | “Splasher” the frog visits with the children |

Additional Activities at Benbrook YMCA

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| 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. | YMCA is celebrating its one-year anniversary during this event with an open house (hot dogs, cake, drinks, dunking booth, bounce house, swimming pool, basketball, etc.) |
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Visit the Fort Worth District website at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/links/pao/pao.htm>